

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION-PRIVACY ACTS SECTION

SUBJECT: VVAW

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SECTION: _____

Serial 3732

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REFERRALS: NONE

EXEMPTIONS: b7c

VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR
WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION
P. O. BOX 11212
TAMPA 33610
626-7320

Minutes from the meeting in Tallahassee

Committee of Military & Veteran Affairs
Room 207
Tallahassee, Florida LSC-3420 or 488-3139

for more answers to questions about the pending bills and other questions pertaining
V.A. benefits

Roger Homoy - Veterans Coordinator.

- 1) emphasize needs & support of veterans
- 2) Organize statewide veterans
- 3) nursing home
- 4) tuition
- 5) establishment of H.V.A. office

these bills are pending and are supposed to be put forward to the committee to be passed

Mayor Roger Revis: "Praise to the veterans the most patriotic men that this
country has seen" owes this group of veterans more than anyone else. there's a
critical reduction in Veterans.

There was a man who commented on what [redacted] said about Army R.O.T.C. and said that the
group that he was in was not as "radical" as we the members of V.V.A.W. are

Supposedly [redacted] the person responsible for the bills that haven't been passed.
2/3 votes are needed to put a bill on the floor by the House and the Senate.

there were about 20 different groups and schools at this meeting and someone mentioned the
since there were so many of us there that it shouldn't be all that hard to get some of
bills passed and also to be able to present some bills to legislature about V.A. benefits

60 day deferment to be brought up at the meeting in this afternoon (3-29-74)

[redacted] over this particular matter of V.A. benefits should go to the House of Rep.
& Senate.

Representative May Mattox Polk county - this nation has long recognized that when it
calls on its citizens to serve, it impairs on the personal lives of the veterans.
Congress has not seen fit to fully fund the veterans.

#1 PUBLIC SUPPORT: most important factor confronted with a degree of public apathy
he says the cause of some of the apathy is from those that seek the support
In Florida the legislature has been negligent -- Florida has not been doing as
much as other states. (double-talk etc., etc., etc.)
Problem is compounded by the fact that all activities in daily life has become increasingly
complex (non-action is action)
Members of Legislature are confronted with so many problems that many of them don't
have time to even read the bills and proposals that come in. (violins come in now)
We are 34th in comparison to other states in the nation.

Several proposals:

Majority of veterans are supporting the tuition waiver bill, this bill could cost the
state of Florida nearly 60 million dollars less than 1 billion dollars a year.
"this has not been an active involvement of veterans collectively" only solution:
Veterans become more actively involved in the legislative process -- more veterans should
contact and talk with members of the legislature.
"the best legislation in the world is not going to get anywhere without support!"
("a little carnival backing!") he is just contradicting himself all over the place-one
members of the audience said about the speaker
There was alot of "no" being said about bureaucracy "more carnival backing to confuse
the issue at hand"

recessed for lunch

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VIETNAM VETERANS OF THE WAR
WINTER SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION
P. O. BOX 11212
TAMPA 33610
626-7220

Page 2 -con-

head speaker

for Rep. P. Thomas

for Sen. E. Horne

for Rep. R. Mattox

for Sen. R. Pettigrew

for Rep. J. Miller

for Rep. R. Mattox

Staff Director - select committee on military & Veterans Affairs

2233 waiver tuition

2234 same as 2233 but private collage

2235 pay tuition of veterans kids if the veteran is killed (no way affect G.I. benefits)

yes there is a great deal of apathy in the legislation toward the veterans.

(Sen. E. Horne)

when a bill is profiled it is left to the committee -- (your dirty love) ?

What we could give you to give us (do realize that legislature in Florida does have an impact on Congressmen and Senators.) implementation day July 21, Eddy Cooper Tribune 1945.

recycling of money if legislatures help us we help them (naturally)

What the impact would be on Florida if the people came from out of state and paid instate tuition we have a large number of Veterans that do not get their benefits for 3 or 4 months -- due to this inconvenience his registration is cancelled.

Petition-Pensacola Jr. College 29 Jan. 1974 that 60 days be allowed to veterans in delaying tuition payment

1) join forces

said in his opinion it is a federal problem done in one week write your representatives

U.S.F.

SEMINOLE

S.P.J.C.

EDISON

JACKSONVILLE UNIV.

FLA. JR. COLLEGE

UNIV. OF N. FLA.

MIAMI

We should keep a file on everything that everyone is doing all around the state - a list of legislators

South Florida could take all the counties around there and get in touch with Vets to write letters or call---perhaps get some kind of body count up here send form letters and send them to the people

(idea) April 28 & 30 march on capital

tomorrow they will give us the names of the legislators to we can contact them and find out what's going on.

tr

VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR
WHITE SOLDIER ORGANIZATION
P. O. BOX 11212
TAMPA 33610
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page 3 -con-

minutes of the Saturday meeting in Tallahassee

- 1) believes pre-payment more easily accomplished than advanced payment
no more than 1,999 cards

Ques. aid for disadvantaged (junkie, i.e. less than honorable investigated
not legitimacy, but [redacted] says that drug treatment (areas) problems will
not be filed away, if the need is there for immediate treatment

- 11) V.A. cannot reverse (prohibited by law) cases of less than honorable discharges of a
G.C.M. however independent cases may be reviewed

How many decisions are reversed?
10 % and another person said 11%

MILITARY REVIEW BOARD WASHINGTON D.C.

changes of reversal are greater if the vet goes in person - can appear with counsel
or through an agency

- 111) what are the emergency funding procedures?

Hardship payments are available - the treasury dept. which can be called/teletyped
from Birmingham, Ala. Once a check is mailed, then the treasury dept. is to be seen
not the V.A. as it is then out of their hands. 75% of hardship cases are paid early.
Often it may come through Congressional Intervention 2500, calls daily in St. Pete
office phone tank.

Trainees train 1 hr. daily for a period of 6 months. [redacted] admits that there
are a number of people in training in the V.A. that shouldn't be.

[redacted] was talking about a survey that happened down in Tampa. It was telling
the Rep. what and where the problem were. [redacted] said that if we all went back to
our home universities and J.C.'s and other veterans administrations and tell other
people "about what has happened here, and maybe on some back page corner of some
newspaper we'd be in the news and then maybe the public will know what is going
on V.A. information center
Tallahassee, Florida

N.A.C.V.
1900 "L" st NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

A few words from our brothers--

How can a vet sit down and write a letter to his legislature when he has to work,
go to school full-time?

--we did their trip and we worked for the fat-cats and when they had us
by the balls and when they needed us we were there, and now when we need them
and now that we are free they tell us to go to hell. We can't get our benefits
that we were supposed to get. Under the state legislature we are not Vietnam Vets,
but under all the bullshit that has to come down around us now we are what the
hell is going on?

The state legislature states this fact: 22.5 billion dollars goes for defence funds
for other countries. This country has enough military arms to blow up this world
10 times over!

tr

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DATE 7/21/95 BY SP6 BJA/MS

April 10, 1974

To whom it should concern:

On Monday night, 8 April, we were informed by [redacted] that the members of [redacted] were not welcome at the national meeting. Among the charges that were made were that "immature" letters had been sent by our chapter members and that [redacted] had told the members what to write. These charges are obviously contradictory, for [redacted] surely is not immature, and even those who might have a personal vendetta against him would not make such a ridiculous charge. Furthermore, I resent the implication that I am incapable of thinking or writing for myself. [redacted] writing memos and letters to stupid people who are unable to see the egg on their face, I definitely am able to compose my own thoughts into a letter. Perhaps you found the language used by some of our sisters and brothers insulting--I am surprised to learn that there are still some words that can shock the virgin ears of Viet Nam veterans--for if words can shock you, why not the acts which were described by the words?

b7c
The problems still exist; not hearing them will not make them disappear. Florida region is falling apart, due primarily to the ego-tripping Miami chapter. Members from that chapter insult their comrades, they remove articles that do not belong to them from offices not their own, and they will not work together with others. [redacted] chapter works hard on all sorts of projects, from prison reform to fund-raising concerts, from demonstrations to lobbying for passage of legislative bills for veterans' benefits; yet no other chapters are informed about our efforts, although we always send you a newsletter describing what we are doing. Apparently the national VVAW does not have any representatives to whom it is a concern--but it still should concern you. Rather than paying attention to the facts and charges in the letters which you received from [redacted] chapter, rather than facing these charges on the floor of the national meeting, you prefer to hide behind a false facade of shock at some words and refuse to allow us to be heard.

I assure you, that as dynamic and competent a leader [redacted] is, he cannot make me write anything I do not want to, he cannot make me write anything I do not believe--indeed, he cannot make me write anything--and he wouldn't try! I don't know how my brothers and sisters in Tampa feel about what you have said, but for myself, I know you owe both me and [redacted] an apology. If you really do give a damn, I expect to get one from you.

Yours

VVAW

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REPORT for MARCH, 1974, FROM the TAMPA CHAPTER, VVAW

SPECIAL ACTIONS

- 1.. Demonstration against Vice-President Ford at Plant Park, Tampa, on 3/8/74. b7c

About 200 people, including representatives from the United Farmworkers, Red Star, BACON, Tampa Women's Center, [REDACTED] and his group, TSC, and VVAW marched from 7PM to 10PM. All demonstrators were thrown out of Plant Park, and had to take to the sidewalks, where the signs we carried urging "Honk, if you want to impeach Nixon" got a good response from the spectators. At least 40% of the demonstrators were members of Tampa Chapter of VVAW.

News coverage was favorable, as the sample article enclosed with this report indicates.

2. Veterans' Rally in Tallahassee

Representatives from 22 Veterans' organisations in Florida gathered in Tallahassee on March 29 and 30, and were disappointed that the delegations of State Representatives who promised to meet with them failed to show.

The Veterans' representatives voted that if our letters and petitions alone are not effective in causing our bills to be passed, then a Mass Demonstration will occur in the latter part of April, when from 500 to 10000 people will take over the steps of the State Capitol, stage a sit-down, and remain there until we get favorable action.

S S S S * * * * *

We had a talk with Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and demand the right to be heard at the National Assembly of VVAW in order to discuss the Florida problem. At National's request, a copy of this report will be sent to Wisconsin. We are also enclosing handwritten letters from some members of the Tampa Chapter who want to express their opinions about the situation in Florida. Pictures taken at our demonstrations are also included.

AMERICAN PRISON REFORM BILL

1. Bill still working on the Prison Project, corresponding with, and visiting inmates.

As for the bills on Prison Reform in Tallahassee, part of our proposed bill has been approved, and we are now working for passage of the other portions. Continued pressure on the legislators must be kept up, because if the bills aren't passed this session, they may be thrown out. Therefore we are calling for massive demonstrations to improve the probability of passing the Prison Reform Bills during this session.

Copies of the proposed bills are also enclosed.

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

2. We received your newsletter, and once again we found no word at all about Tampa Chapter in the letter. This blackout of news about our events is unfair to the members of Tampa Chapter who consider it an indication that the National Organisation doesn't want to work with Tampa VVAN. If their impression is correct, don't be a "two-faced politician"--Tell us so, and we'll take it from there.

Taking and printing the photos we send you are expensive. Making reports take time, and we believe it is unfair that our activities are not publicized among other regions. Our members are still loyal to National, but they're growing tired of being ignored and treated like unwelcome relatives.


That's laying it on the line like it is. It's not only unfair to Tampa members, but it's unfair to other regions and chapters who might support our efforts if they were aware of what we're doing here.

No matter what you decide about working with us, Tampa Chapter is alive and well, and growing--and won't play dead if you don't support us.

Since we opened our new headquarters, at each of the four monthly meetings we sign up at least 1 or 2 new members. We have more than 70 active members in the Tampa Chapter now.

Yours in the struggle,


Coordinator


Vice-Coordinator

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Office of the Student Vice-President

March 29, 1974

Dear [REDACTED]

As you know the 1974 Florida Legislative Session is upon us. During the past week (March 18-22) of legislative committee meetings in the capital, [REDACTED] and I were in attendance and testified for several student-related bills. After the many meetings and conversations, it is quite apparent that the people at the capital are receptive towards our ideas, problems, and plans.

If we let our voices be heard on "Capital Hill" and develop the right strategy, we will definitely affect the direction of various student-related legislation. I mention "student-related", because this will be the key to effective lobbying. It will be this focus of attention and devotion to detail that will win us the respect of the legislators. It is this type of lobbying clout that enabled the University of California Student Lobby to have influenced the appropriation of over \$8,000,000 for students, i.e. obtaining a \$1,000,000 fund to evaluate and up-grade undergraduate courses and teachers, and securing \$1.6 million in additional student financial aid for the 1972-73 year and \$2.5 million for 1973-74.

Therefore, in order to more efficiently carry-out our goals of lobbying, there will be a FSU Lobbying Workshop held April 4, Thursday, at 10:30 a.m., and at 3:30 p.m. of the same day. It was decided to have two workshops, so hopefully everyone could attend. If anyone has any problems please call me.

Scheduled for the agenda is:

- (1) A few professional lobbyists, i.e. League of Women Voters, ERA, NAA, ACLU.
- (2) Distribution of lobbying manual and packet.
- (3) Discussion of present and future student-related bills.

WE NEED ALL OF YOU -- AND MOST OF ALL STUDENTS NEED YOU!

BRING

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BRING

P.S. just to keep you informed

82 2/4/74
Date Application

NOTIFICATION OF GROUP MEETING AND ASSEMBLY
University of South Florida

Rec.
Dir.
3:00
pm

(Must be filed 24 hours prior to event)

TO: VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS

FROM:

Vietnam Veterans Against the War
NAME OF SPONSOR (Person or Organization)

305 W. Waters Ave.
ADDRESS OF SPONSOR

We are requesting calendar clearance for our outdoor (X) indoor () meeting or assembly on May 5, 1974 at 1:00 to 8:00 P.M.
Date (s) Time

The event will be (description) Bluegrass Concert and Fair

Cost: \$ 1,000 . Financial Arrangements: Sale of tickets

This program will be open to:

☒ Public
☒ University Community
☐ Organization Members Only

We are requesting the following:

Space Soccer Field
Building Room

Space
Contribution: _____

Campus Security: Yes ___ No X Number _____

Type of Amplification, if needed: None (will provide own)

OTHER INFORMATION: No Amplified Instruments

According to
Program

Signature of Officer: _____

Student Number: _____

Signature of Advisor: _____

Received by: _____

Reviewed by: _____

3/13/74
Date

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VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR
WINTER SOLDIER ORGANIZATION
P.O.Box 11212
Tampa, Florida 33610
813-626-7320

April 17, 1974

Dear Brothers:

It had been our intention and desire for a delegation of members from Tampa Chapter of VVAW to attend the NSCM at Milwaukee, Wisconsin on April 11-15, 1974, in order to bring to the floor the problems existing between the chapters and regions in the State of Florida, and to explain to the entire membership of VVAW why Tampa Chapter will not work with the regions of Florida.

The right to bring this question into the open before all the members was denied to us because we are not a part of the regional. I feel certain that our problems are not restricted to Florida alone. The same problems exist throughout the United States.

These problems, I am certain, are hurting VVAW on a national as well as chapter level. These problems will have to be resolved if we intend to continue as a viable and growing organization. The only way to resolve them is to bring them before the entire membership for open discussion and resolution in a democratic way.

Even in the crooked society in which we live, and even in our crooked courts, a person is permitted to present his side of the story and to defend himself in an open forum before he is found guilty. If VVAW doesn't allow us to do this, they are no better than the government which serves and benefits not the majority of the people, but rather a handful of chosen individuals.

We, as brothers and sisters, must always keep our minds open for mutual understanding. That IS what makes us brothers and sisters!

We are, therefore, sending you a copy of the packet we mailed to Milwaukee and to National. We intended to present this information at the meeting, but since we were not permitted to attend as a delegation, we are mailing the material to you, instead.

If any further information is desired, or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by mail, and we'll answer all your questions. We are guilty of nothing. We have nothing to hide. Only one who has something to hide refuses to hear both sides of the story lest his own guilt be uncovered. We're ready to tell our side as soon as we are given the chance. Therefore, from now on, we shall send our monthly Newsletter not only to National, but to you as well.

Yours in solidarity in the struggle,

[Redacted Signature] b7c

ROUND ROBIN REPORT TAMPA CHAPTER VVAW
In January 1974, we had the official opening of the VVAW headquarters.

Bluegrass Festival at USF 2/22/74, about 1800 attended. sold tickets at \$1 and \$1.50 to pay expenses. Put together so well, and went off so smoothly, that school requested another, which will be held 5/12/74.

In Feb. began working with several other groups to help organize BACON, a group to impeach Nixon.

3/8/74, VP Ford spoke at University of Tampa. We had about 200 people picketing his appearance--40% of those were VVAW members. Others demonstrating included United Farmworkers, BACON, and the Socialist African party, and Red Star.

Mid-March we distributed leaflets on all Tampa campuses to bring Veterans to a gripe session at USF. Hearing [redacted] are representatives from Congressman Sam Gibbons, [redacted]

Sanator Lawton Chiles asked Congressman [redacted] to send him a report about the outcome of the meeting. As a result of this meeting, we were able to prevent USF from cancelling registration of 7 Veterans who hadn't received checks from the government. Now, if a Veteran's check is delayed, we have the means to get him the check in from 5 to 7 days. Sam Gibbons' office will receive and investigate all complaints, and solve their problems. This session was in preparation for the big meeting in Tallahassee with State Representatives.

3/29 and 3/30/74 a group of VVAW joined with 22 other Florida delegations. We had a meeting scheduled with State representatives who didn't show up. Two Bills benefitting veterans, for which we are lobbying, will entitle a Vietnam veteran to four years free schooling in the state of Florida.

We are now gathering signatures on a petition which we'll present to the House of Representatives in Tallahassee on 4/26/74. On that day, we'll march from FSU to the Capitol steps. This demonstration will be put on by Tampa Chapter VVAW supported by other groups. Committee for Veterans' Benefits working on this project now.

We've been working on a prison reform project for 8 or 9 months. We have been visiting inmates, putting out press releases to newspapers and other media, describing bad conditions in prisons. We had a Bill on the floor of the House of Representatives, supported by Don Tucker. 70% of the Bill was passed. We are continuing to work for prison reform.

On 5/12/74 there will be another Bluegrass concert. We expect about 4000 people to attend.

On 5/4/74 we're scheduled to go to Washington, DC for May Day. On July 1 or 4 we'll go to Washington again with VVAW.

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